

House Bill 962 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89th, Dempsey of the 13th, Benton of the 31st, Hugley of the 136th, Sharper of the 177th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Human Services generally, so as to provide for the creation, appointment, and duties of a kinship care enforcement administrator; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Human Services generally, is amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 49-2-1, relating to department created, transfer of powers, functions, and duties of Department of Human Resources to Department of Human Services, creation, appointment, removal, and duties of commissioner of human services, to read as follows:

“(c)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

(A) 'Fictive kin' has the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 15-11-2.

(B) 'Kinship caregiver' means a grandparent, aunt, uncle, great aunt, great uncle, cousin, or sibling of a child under the age of 18 or fictive kin who has assumed responsibility for raising such child in an informal, noncustodial, or guardianship capacity upon the legal parents of such child losing or abdicating the ability to care for or provide basic necessities for such child.

(2) There is created the position of kinship care enforcement administrator within the Department of Human Services who shall be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the commissioner of human services. The kinship care enforcement administrator shall account for, monitor, facilitate, and ensure compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations of the federal government and this state which relate to any programs, including, but not limited to, any pilot programs, subsidies, or benefits, available to kinship caregivers or the children within their care.”

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SECTION 2.

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All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.